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Quarterly Report
First Quarter 2004

ACFA Program Revokes Pet Store License

The Missouri Department of Agriculture revoked a Springfield pet store's license in January for failing to provide adequate care for the animals it sold. Mabelle Martin, doing business as Puppy World on South Ingram Mill Road, had her license revoked after failing consecutive inspections and drawing complaints by patrons of the store. Sabetha Purtle, animal health officer, cited Martin for inadequate food, water, sanitation, and veterinary care.

The department issued a warning to the pet shop after finding earlier citations had gone uncorrected. Two weeks later, the department issued a letter of revocation because the storeowners failed to make the changes cited in the warning letter.

"Unfortunately, it became apparent that the owners of Puppy World were not going to take action to clean up their facility and take care of their animals, so we had to step in," said Peter Hofherr, the department's director, "Our area animal care inspector worked in conjunction with the city's animal control officer to issue the license revocation."

Department officials later sought a temporary restraining order in order to remove any sick dogs and ensure their welfare. Several dogs were removed by warrant from the Martin home, near Strafford. They were transferred to the Southwest Missouri Humane Society pending a disposition hearing. Local officials will determine whether additional action will be taken against Mabelle Martin or her husband.

Tethering to be Prohibited at Licensed Facilities

The ACFA Advisory Committee met on March 8, 2004, to discuss, among other things, tethering as a means of primary enclosure. After a slide show presentation and some discussion on the topic, it was decided that permanent tethering would be prohibited within all state-licensed facilities. USDA licensed facilities are already prohibited from the practice.

Dr. Jerry Eber, ACFA program veterinarian, has proposed the change through the following wording: "Permanent tethering of dogs is prohibited for use as a primary enclosure. Temporary tethering of dogs is prohibited for use as primary enclosure unless approval is obtained from the state veterinarian."

Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with Jerry Eber, DVM, Veterinarian II, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health, PO Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630. To be considered, comments must be received within 30 days after publication in the *Missouri Register*. No public hearing is scheduled.

Animal Care Program Helps Rescue Dogs, Cats from Unfit Residence

Inspectors with the Animal Care Facilities Act program removed 38 dogs and 57 cats from an unlicensed rescue operation in Aurora in March.

John Cupps, an animal health officer, worked with staff from the Humane Society of Missouri and the Lawrence County sheriff's office to remove the animals from the home of Toni Chauvin. Cupps said the facility was inadequate to house the number of pets on the premises and did not meet standards for adequate care.

Chauvin apparently was rescuing abandoned animals and had become unable to adequately house and care for the growing number of dogs and cats she was taking in, said Dr. Jerry Eber, program veterinarian.

On March 2nd, Chauvin gave custody of the dogs to the state. The dogs were taken to the Humane Society of Missouri in St. Louis, where they will be evaluated, treated and offered for adoption.

ACFA inspectors learned of the conditions at Chauvin's home while investigating a complaint. They inspected the facility during the week prior and found filthy conditions, dogs tied to poles without shelter, and a dead dog that had not been disposed. Cupps said the animals were receiving food and water, but that Chauvin, who is in a wheelchair, was having trouble physically taking care of the animals.

Animal Care Program Works to Place Unwanted Dogs

Missouri animal shelters may have a new outlet for placing the unwanted, high-energy dogs that are relinquished to their shelters.

The state's Animal Care Facilities Act Program (ACFA) is working with the National Working Dog Recovery Program to train shelter personnel to screen dogs for a possible role with the Department of Homeland Security. Suitable dogs will be trained for canine detection work, such as sniffing out bombs and trailing people.

"Often, high-energy dogs are less likely to be adopted from shelters because they are not considered to be suitable dogs or playmates for children," said Dr. Jerry Eber, ACFA program veterinarian. "However, their temperament may make them appropriate candidates for the National Working Dog Recovery program and give them a second chance at life."

Eber and other ACFA staff members, along with employees from animal shelters and humane organizations throughout central Missouri, attended training in March to learn how to recognize dogs that might be suitable for canine detection work.

James Quick, director of National Working Dog Recovery, and Wayne Davis, president of West Virginia Canine College, led the workshop. They showed participants how to direct suitable canine candidates to the National Working Dog Recovery Program and increase the potential for high-energy dogs to be adopted. Dogs that fail the training are returned to their original shelter for another chance at adoption.

"Partnering with the recovery program is another step we are taking to help unwanted dogs have a second chance to lead happy, meaningful lives," said Eber. "We're delighted the shelters have this option."

Another training and informational session is being planned for the Springfield area. For more information on the program, contact Dr. Eber at 573-751-3076.

Frequently Asked Question:

We are always open to questions. Through the use of this column, we hope to answer some questions that are commonly asked of our staff.

What are the ACFA regulations regarding euthanasia?

Euthanasia is a subject that draws considerable public attention. It is often discussed with emotional fervor and is often debated with anecdotal evidence. State regulations require that euthanasia within licensed facilities be performed by methods established by an expert panel.

The ACFA regulations state, "All euthanasia of animals shall be accomplished by a method approved by the 2000 edition, or later revisions, of the *American Veterinary Medical Association's Panel on Euthanasia*, as incorporated by reference in this rule."

The most common method for euthanasia performed in ACFA-licensed facilities is barbiturate overdose. The AVMA panel describes this method as "highly effective" in meeting their evaluation criteria. Other licensees may use carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide in conducting euthanasia at their facilities. Gunshot and decapitation are listed by the panel as "conditionally acceptable," and should not be used as a method of routine euthanasia in ACFA-licensed facilities. Drowning and blunt trauma are listed by the panel as "unacceptable" and should never be used as a manner of euthanasia.

Personnel should be properly trained before performing euthanasia. The National Animal Control Association and the Humane Society of the United States conducts this type of training. Licensed veterinarians with experience in this field may also provide training on proper administration of approved drugs or gases.

Census of ACFA Facilities

(As of March 2, 2004)

Commercial Breeders	1,461
Commercial Kennels	36
Boarding Kennels	131
Dealer/Broker	115
Pet Shops	79
Contract Kennels	16
Exhibitors	5
Hobby/Show Licensed	27
Hobby/Show Registered	254
Animal Shelters	74
Rescues	92
Municipal Dog Pounds	219
Pet Sitters	9
Intermediate Handlers	9
Total	2,527

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Renewals Due in January

ACFA license and registration renewals were due January 31, 2004.

We continue to have facilities that do not renew in a timely manner. As of March 2004, 171 facilities had not applied for renewal. This information has been forwarded to field staff for investigation. Facilities that do not renew prior to the deadline may receive a warning for failure to comply. Facilities that continue to operate without a license may be turned over to the attorney general's office or local prosecutors.

Operation of an animal shelter, pound or dog pound, boarding kennel, commercial kennel, contract kennel, pet shop or exhibition facility, or conducting activity as a commercial breeder or dealer without a valid license constitutes a class A misdemeanor.

Canine Care Workshops

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Agriculture and University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine will be conducting continuing education workshops for the third consecutive year.

There will be two opportunities to attend educational workshops designed to help licensees enhance the health and well being of their dogs. Subjects will include canine socialization, pediatric medicine and respiratory diseases. There will also be a presentation on kennel design(s) and an ACFA update.

Canine Care Workshops will take place at the following locations and dates:

Kirksville	June 26, 2004
Joplin	July 31, 2004

There is a \$25.00 fee to attend, which includes lunch if you register in advance. Please call 573-751-3076 for a pamphlet and registration form.

Compliance Activity

Six dogs and two cats were removed from an abandoned residence in Callaway County after the owner admitted the inability to properly care for the animals. The effort was initiated by ACFA staff and facilitated by the Callaway County Sheriff's Department.

A dog breeder in Montgomery County has verbally withdrawn his application for licensure, promising to sell his dogs at a site in Minnesota rather than improve his facility to comply with Missouri's regulations.

A dual-licensed facility in Polk County has agreed to disperse its dogs after failing inspections conducted by USDA and ACFA.

An unlicensed animal shelter in Randolph County has promised to transfer custody of its dogs to the Humane Society of Missouri after failing to meet recommendations of the attending veterinarian and failing to comply with the state's sterilization laws.

Licensed Commercial Breeding Kennels Continue to Rise

The ACFA program works diligently to license all activity covered by the law. We attempt to find unlicensed commercial breeders by sharing reports with USDA, reviewing acquisition and disposition records, monitoring auctions, and investigating complaints. The following numbers come from periodic reports on the number of licensees in Missouri during the past decade.

Total Commercial Breeders:

1995-	929
1996-	964
1997-	1016
1998-	1090
1999-	1093
2000-	1118
2001-	1149
2002-	1222
2003-	1372
2004-	1461

This is an increase of 532 commercial breeders with little increase in ACFA staff. Further analysis would prove that all categories experienced a net gain during the same time period.

New breeders begin their business as other breeders move out-of-business, but it is our experience that the net increase in licensed commercial breeders comes largely from persons formerly operating without a license. Applicants are issued a license, as per state statute, once they have met all the standards outlined within the Animal Care Facilities Act.